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The Washington Merry-Go-Round

# Sen. Bass and Truth-in-Labeling

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By Drew Pearson

LBJ Carries On

Housewives will not be present at the closed session of the Senate Commerce Committee on Tuesday when it considers

a bill introduced by Sen. Phil Hart (D-Mich.) requiring manufacturers to print on the labels of grocery and other packages the exact quantity they contain.



Pearson

If the homemakers were present they would find that the man who inherited the shoes of the famous consumer protector, Estes Kefauver of Tennessee, is not following in Kefauver's footsteps.

Sen. Ross Bass of Tennessee is one of three Democratic key Senators on the Committee who are holding back against truth-in-labeling.

Two other Democrats, Sens. Vance Hartke of Indiana and Mike Monroney of Oklahoma, are still undecided.

These three will be the swing votes. All other Democrats except Frank Lausche (D-Ohio) favor protecting the consumer.

Six Republicans, however, will vote solidly against the consumer. They are: Sens. Norris Cotton (N.H.), Thruston Morton (Ky.), Hugh Scott (Pa.), Winston Prouty (Vt.), James Pearson (Kan.) and Peter Dominick (Colo.).

Despite the vigorous, sometimes bitter opposition from "dove" Senators, the President has been going about the business of passing legislation as if nothing had happened. Last week he summoned all chairmen of Senate committees to the White House to discuss the legislative program. Among them was Sen. William Fulbright (D-Ark.), chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee and one of five Senators who had voted against Mr. Johnson on rescinding the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution of 1964. This is the resolution that gave Mr. Johnson carte blanche to proceed militarily in Vietnam.

Though Fulbright had been one of the most effective opponents of the President and though the President obviously was unhappy about his opposition, the two men talked at the White House meeting as if nothing had happened.

When Mr. Johnson asked Fulbright for a report on pending legislation before the Foreign Relations Committee, the Senator from Arkansas mentioned the Russian consular treaty with the United States, and observed that probably the political climate was not conducive to ratifying it.

Fulbright discussed the matter dispassionately, did not mention the fact that J. Edgar Hoover, who holds office at the age of 72 by the grace of

the President, had come out, and the Senators who operate with an excoriating bias against consulates conducted by Communist countries in the United States — a statement that made ratification of the consular treaty difficult if not impossible. Fulbright also did not mention the fact that this was a treaty the United States had requested, not the Russians, and that the Russians planned to open no new consulates in the United States.

The President, discussing the treaty with equal dispassion, seemed to think the political climate was not ready. He too did not mention J. Edgar Hoover's statement, and he did not volunteer to get Hoover to clarify the largely distorted facts.

## School Funds

The President went the round of various committee chairmen, asking Sen. Allen Ellender (D-La.) about legislation dealing with agriculture. Ellender had no major farm bills pending.

On education, Sen. Warren Magnuson (D-Wash.), raised the question of continuing appropriations for impacted school areas. These are areas where military bases or Federal installations put an additional burden on local schools to provide for the children of Federal employees.

So ran the matter-of-fact discussion between the man who lives in the White House

## Gov. Brown and Riots

Just a few hours before the new riots broke out in the Watts section of Los Angeles, Gov. Edmund G. (Pat) Brown of California was breakfasting with Sargent Shriver at the Madison Hotel in Washington trying to get Federal money to relieve Negro unemployment in Watts.

He was turned down.

Brown told Shriver that his studies of the California situation indicated that trouble was inevitable in Watts and other poverty-stricken areas unless the Federal Government could join the state of California in a large-scale employment program.

Shriver replied that with the Vietnamese war costing more and more, the antipov-erty program also lacked funds and could not alleviate the situation in Watts. He told Gov. Brown that although California seemed to be more up to date in trying to meet the problem than other states, any aid he extended to California would mean that other states would demand similar help.

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